

REMARKS

Claims 7 and 39 are amended. Claims 63 and 64 are cancelled. Claims 1-62 are in the application for consideration.

Claims 7 and 39 are amended in a manner which reads upon the elected species and, accordingly, examination of the same is warranted. Action to that end is requested.

Each of Applicant's claims stand rejected as being obvious over a combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,155,058 to Fujiwara et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,650,043 to Kaji et al. The rejection thereof is seen to be in error for a number of reasons. However, principal to the Examiner's apparent rejection seems to be a determination that Kaji et al, at col.5, lns.9-15 discloses etching silicon with a solution comprising NH_4OH and NH_4F having a pH of approximately 13.6. However, such calculation and approximation made by the Examiner are grossly in error. The true pH has been more accurately calculated to be 8.43 +/-0.2. Such is supported by the accompanying 37 C.F.R. §1.132 Declaration of inventor Janos Fucsko.

Even ignoring the alleged propriety of combining the Fujiwara et al. and Kaji et al. patents, each of Applicant's independent claims 1 and 31 require a wet etching method using an aqueous liquid etching solution which comprises a hydroxide and a fluoride and having a pH of at least 10. Neither of the cited references discloses such, and the Kaji et al. reference in pertinent part clearly discloses a pH less than 10. Therefore, the combination of these two references does not include all of the limitations of

Applicant's independent claims 1 and 31. Accordingly, the rejections thereof should be withdrawn. Action to that end is requested.

Other issues of error in the Examiner's action are not otherwise referred to herein, at least due to the pH calculation provided herein itself being effective to remove the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection.

Applicant's dependent claims should be allowed as depending from allowable base claims, and for their own recited features which are neither shown nor suggested in the cited art. Action to that end is requested.

All withdrawn claims remaining in this application should now be examined and allowed. Action to that end is requested.

This application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance with respect to claims 1-62, and action to that end is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: 8-17-05

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